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Indians

General Conf

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1954

**Seventy-five Years of General Conference of the Methodist
Mission Work**

**Among the Cheyenne and Arapaho
INDIANS IN OKLAHOMA**

"WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT!" Num. 23:23.



Indian Encampment at Darlington during the early years.

1955

DEDICATION

This book is affectionately dedicated to all Indian friends who, through the efforts of the General Conference missionaries and Indian Christian leaders, have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and have endeavored to follow Him in a consecrated life.





Darlington, where the first mission work among the Indians was started.



The first mission school at Darlington. First building destroyed by fire in which three Indian children and a child of S. S. Haurys perished. This picture is of the second building.



MR. and MRS. S. S. HAURY, the first missionaries of our conference to the American Indians. He was sent to Alaska to explore a field there, but finding it occupied, the work among the Arapahoes in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, was taken up in 1880, at Darlington.

MR. and MRS. H. R. VOTH who soon followed S. S. Haury to the field. While at Darlington, Mrs. Voth passed to her reward in 1889. She lies buried at Darlington.





1. Part of the old fort barracks which the government turned over to our mission for mission purposes.
2. Frame school building erected after the first was destroyed by fire.
3. Brick mission schoolhouse erected in 1890, destroyed by fire on Feb. 1, 1893.
4. Part of the barracks, Indian trading store and post office.



Marker on Highway 51.



The first Arapaho Chapel at Cantonment, later moved to the present church site two miles south of Canton.



1. MISS BERTHA E. KINSINGER, missionary, arrived at Cantonment, Sept. 24, 1896.
2. MISS AGNES WILLIAMS, missionary, at Cantonment, Oct. 14, 1898. She also served at Hammon and in Montana.
3. CARRIE WARNER, who in her infancy was given to the mission by her colored father at the time of his death. Her mother was an Indian.
4. MRS. FINE (Twin Woman) a Faithful Christian.
- 5 and 6. Two views of the home of MISS KINSINGER, MISS WILLIAMS and CARRIE.



Cantonment Mission house, remodelled several times. As it appeared before being sold in 1945. The beginning of the translation of the New Testament into the Cheyenne language was done here.

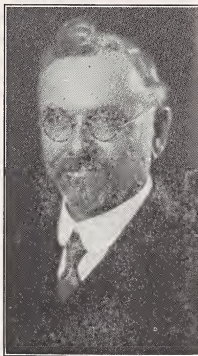


MR. and MRS. RODOLPHE PETTER were among the first missionaries who labored among the Cheyennes in Oklahoma. Later he was transferred to Montana, where he completed the translation of the New Testament into the Cheyenne language. The first Mrs. Petter lies buried in the Cantonment Cemetery.

M. M. HORSCH first worked at Darlington, then went to Cantonment. In 1894 he and Mrs. Horsch opened the work at Clinton, where they labored until 1900.



MISS OTILLIE DETTWEILER, teacher in our Cantonment Mission School. Later Mrs. M. M. Horsch.





J. A. FUNK worked at Cantonment and Canton with the Arapahoes for 24 years. Under him the Arapaho Zion Mennonite Church was organized in 1897. His first wife died on the field and lies buried in the Cantonment cemetery.

WILLIE MEEKS started as helper in the Arapaho Church in 1910 and continued until his death in 1936



A group of Indian leaders in the different Indian Mennonite churches. They are from left to right: Willie Meeks, Albert Hamilton, Robert Hamilton, Homer Hart, Redbird, Harvey Whiteshield.





Mission house two miles south of Canton. Later used as a church and then moved away to make room for the new church.



A group of Arapaho Indians at a Bible school program at the old house used as a church two miles south of Canton.

The new Arapaho Church dedicated in 1950.



Mission work was started among the Arapahoes at Darlington in 1880. From there the work was transferred to Cantonment and later to the present site two miles south of Canton. The Zion Mennonite Arapaho Church was organized in 1897 with five charter members; Lizzie Raven, Ella Stander, Laura Sage, Minnie Arrow, and Phillip Rabbit.

At present there are over a hundred on the roll. Fourteen different missionary couples have worked with the Arapahoes including S. S. Haurys, H. R. Voths, B. D. Hirschlers, J. J. Kliewers, J. S. Krehbiels, A. S. Voths, J. A. Funks, Albert Claassen, H. J. Kliewers, G. A. Linscheids, Benno Toews, Arthur Friesens, Alfred Wiebes, H. M. Dalkes, and August Schmidts. The early Indian helpers in the church have been: Frank Harrington, Lincoln, Willie Meeks, Harry Bates, and perhaps others.



RALPH and ROSE
LITTLE RAVEN



WALTER and JULIA
FIRE



BILL WILLIAMS



FRANK SWEEZY



H. M. DALKES



H. T. NEUFELDS

Frank Sweezy is oldest living member.
Living now at Greenfield.

H. M. Dalkes who served from 1949 to
1954, on leave of absence.

H. T. Neufelds, former missionaries at
the Arapaho church from 1921-27.



MAGGIE LEONARD, first convert of the General Conference missionary effort at Darlington, Oklahoma.

G. A. LINSCHIDS served 40 years among the Cheyennes and Arapahoes in Oklahoma and the Cheyennes in Montana.



ALBERT CLAASSENS served the Cheyennes at Cantonment and Fonda.

The first Indian Church at Clinton, Oklahoma. The picture was taken February, 1949, for the Fiftieth Anniversary.



In 1894 Rev. and Mrs. M. M. Horsch began mission work for the Mennonite Church in Indian camps near the present site of Clinton. The first services were held in tents and bush arbors. The mission house was built in 1897, and a year later the first Indian church. The congregation was organized on February 19, 1899. This church was used for services until October 29, 1950.



REV. and MRS. J. B. EDIGER served the Clinton church from 1907-1947; the Hammon church, 1927 - 1947, and the Thomas church 1924-1929 and again from 1936-1947, a total of 40 years.



This new Clinton Mennonite Indian Church building was begun on October 24, 1950, and was dedicated on April 22, 1951.

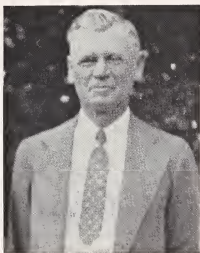


GUY and ALICE HEAP OF BIRDS. Guy has served the Clinton church since 1927.



A Cheyenne winter camp.

H. J. KLIEWER, early missionary
to the Cheyenne Indians at Red
Moon.





HOMER and JENNIE HART.
Homer has served the Hammon Church since 1918.

Below: Hammon Church



The Mennonite Church began mission work among the Red Moon Cheyenne Indians near Hammon, Oklahoma, in June, 1898. In September land was purchased and the house was built in 1899. Services were held in the north part of the house until the fall of 1902, when the present church building was dedicated. On February 11, 1906 the first four members were baptized and the Cheyenne Mennonite Church of Hammon was established.



A group of Vacation Bible School pupils by the Hammon Church.



RICHARD, MRS. FRIESEN, DELBERT, REV. FRIESEN.
The Friesens served at Longdale, Fonda, Canton,
and Concho from 1940-1947. Since 1947 they serve
at Clinton, Hammon, and the Concho Boarding
School.



The farewell service for REV. and MRS. J. B. EDIGER in 1947, after forty
years of work, at the Clinton Church.



Results of a cooking session with the Government Indian Extension Service in the Clinton Church.



LEONARD BIGBEAR, born in 1882, and baptized in 1950, three years after this picture was taken. An encouragement to many.



The Fonda church is located 13½ miles northwest of Canton. Work in that vicinity was begun in 1907. The church was built in 1908. The following missionaries have served there: Rodolphe Petter, 1907-13; Albert Claassen, 1913-16; H. T. Neufeld, 1916-21; G. A. Linscheid, 1921-38; Benno Toews, 1939-40; G. A. Linscheid, 1940; Arthur Friesen, 1940-47; Alfred Wiebe, 1947—.

REV. and MRS. ALFRED WIEBE were at Cantonment for language study 1910-11; as missionaries at Lame Deer, Montana, 1911-15; at Birney, Montana, 1921-22; in charge of Longdale, Fonda, and Seiling, Oklahoma, 1947—.





Above, a baptismal group at Fonda.

Below, three Christian women, left to right, Mrs. Olympia Redhat, baptized 1897, has been a member of the Fonda church longer than any other now living. Mrs. Kate Raven Eggs went to her heavenly home two years ago, her daughter, Mrs. Daisy Stone. In front granddaughter and great-granddaughter respectively of latter two.





Above, four of the women of a Fonda sewing circle with quilts of various patterns in background. The latter are made from patches sent by General Conference Mennonite churches. The women are, left to right, Mrs. Cloud Chief, Mrs. Little Coyote, Mrs. Allrunner and her mother, Mrs. Meat.

Below, women cooking at a Christmas camp.





Above, Indian brush arbor, pleasantly cool for cooking, visiting, and sleeping in summer.

Below, shifting sand, one year's dust drift near Fonda, that blocked the road. A life that is based on the Rock, Jesus Christ will not drift with the wind of false doctrine.





The Longdale church, eight miles northeast of Canton, was first located at Cantonment. When many of the Cheyennes moved away from there the building was taken down and rebuilt near Longdale. Missionaries Linscheid, Toews, Friesen and Wiebe, have served this church.

MRS. KATE OSAGE has been a faithful helper in the Longdale church for many years, serving in cooperation with the various missionaries.





Above, a group of Christians at Longdale church.

Below, a group of Vacation Bible School children at Cantonment. Bible schools are held in all districts.



Deer Creek Cheyenne Mennonite Church at Thomas.



The General Conference started work in the Deer Creek Cheyenne field in 1924. In 1928 a small congregation of eleven members was organized and in 1930 the present building was dedicated. The following missionaries have served in this field: J. B. Ediger, H. J. Kliewer, Arthur Friesen, H. M. Dalke, and August Schmidt. John Heap of Birds has been the helper for more than 20 years.

BIBLE CLUB

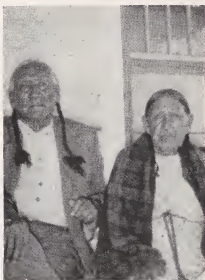


The young people of the Deer Creek church are making a significant contribution to the life and growth of the church.



JOHN HEAP OF BIRDS, present helper at Thomas.

JACOB ALLRUNNERS, oldest living members of the Thomas church.



AUGUST SCHMIDTS, present workers at the Canton and Thomas churches, while H. M. Dalkes are on leave of absence.



At Seiling, Sunday and midweek services have been held in Indian homes for some years. Recently the Board of Missions acquired an abandoned church which was moved to Seiling. The building is being remodeled and is to be dedicated in the Spring of 1955. Seiling is 21 miles northwest of Canton.



To the left, MR. and MRS. DAN ALLRUNNER. Dan has been a helper at the Fonda church for many years. He and his family now live near Seiling and help in the church there also.



Conference of native helpers and missionaries at Clinton, Dec. 14, 1954.



A group of students of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Indian School at Concho. An important phase of the work with the Indians is this school where services are held every Sunday, by the Menonites and Baptists alternately, each missionary in his turn conducting the services.



Roman Nose State Park.
Morning devotions at retreat ground.



Group of retreaters in front of the dining hall at Roman Nose Park. The young people's retreat is another significant part of our missionary work which is enjoyable and rewarding.



ABOVE, from left to right: Harvey Whiteshield, G. A. Linscheid, Mrs. Linscheid, Willie Meeks, Mrs. Kliewer, H. J. Kliewer, and John Heap of Birds.



Front row: Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Ediger. Back row: Homer Hart, Kias, Guy Heap of Birds.

MR. and MRS. JACOB MESCHBERGER served as farmer, matron, seamstress, etc., during the first years of the Mission Schools.



Until Mrs. Meschberger's death in 1954 she had a deep interest in the Indian people and contributed regularly of her means.

Below are seven young men from Henderson, Nebraska, P. K. Dirksen, and Rev. H. T. Neufeld, who contributed their time to the building of the Clinton Church. Others also helped there and at other places.

These pictures represent the thousands who have made it possible for Indian people to hear the wonderful message of Salvation in Christ Jesus. May all who read this say a prayer of thanksgiving for them. Let us consider whether we might be losing a blessing by not giving of our means.

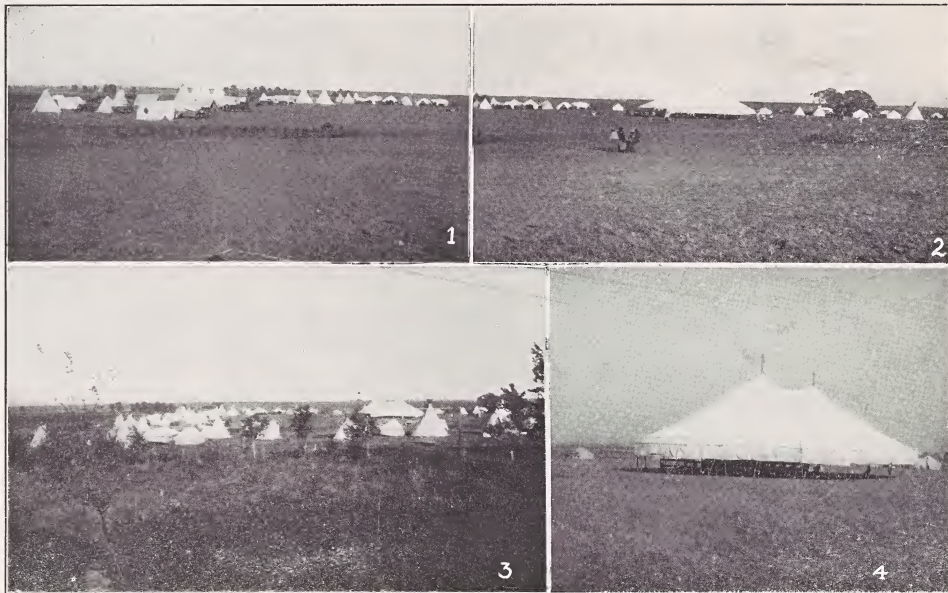




The picture illustrates the way in which the Indians used to live

Magpie and family. He was the first adult Indian in the Cheyenne church at Cantonment, Oklahoma.





Scenes at camp meetings which the Indians loved to attend formerly. Here they were instructed in the Word of God and were inspired for faithful Christian living.

CHEYENNE and ARAPAHO INDIAN MISSION CHURCHES
in
OKLAHOMA

